

**METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR INFORMATION HYPERCHAIN
MANAGEMENT FOR ON-DEMAND BUSINESS COLLABORATION**

Abstract of the Disclosure

Hyperchain information management techniques are provided for use in applications such as on-demand business collaboration. In accordance with such techniques, a hyperchain annotation methodology is provided. Such an annotation methodology enables interaction between loosely-coupled business processes or interacting partners and business entities. Annotated information components and process components for collaboration may be expressed as links. Further, techniques for realizing an on-demand message exchange, embedded status/state information, flexible collaborative business message exchange patterns, and a collaborative directory are provided.